(b) and (c) Industrial growth rates of India's neighbouring countries are not maintained.

Trade between India and Russia

2938. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed and signed trade targeted to reach at $20 billion by 2015;

(b) whether both sides call for diversification of trade into high technology areas;

(c) whether India is one of very few countries with whom Russian trade is growing rather than declining; and

(d) if so, the details of decisions taken, strategy adopted to improve trade between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) The bilateral trade between India and Russia has been growing. During the 15th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation held in Moscow on 21st October, 2009, both the countries took note of the positive trends in bilateral trade and *inter-alia*, it was decided to achieve a bilateral trade target of US$ 20 billion by 2015. Both sides felt that this trade target could be achieved through diversification of the trade basket; focus on priority sectors such as energy, IT and Pharmaceuticals etc.; and through intensification of business-to-business contacts.

SEZs in Maharashtra

2939. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Economic Zone projects, launched in Maharashtra, which were to act as major engines of growth in exports, have not made any progress;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, the reasons for delay in implementation and their present status;

(c) the evaluation of the performance of each of the Export Processing Zones converted into Special Economic Zones; and

(d) the fresh initiatives taken to accelerate the progress of SEZs in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) In addition to the SEEPZ SEZ Mumbai, 109 proposals from Maharashtra have been accorded formal approval out of which 58 have been notified. 15 SEZs are already exporting.